

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Amended) A drilling fluid ~~additive~~ comprising crumb rubber particles, the crumb rubber having a diameter of from ~~about~~greater than 400 to about 4000 microns wherein the crumb rubber is added in an amount of from 5 to 100 pounds per barrel of fluid ~~and a hydrocarbon fluid.~~
2. (Canceled)
3. (Amended) The drilling fluid ~~additive~~ of claim 1 wherein said crumb rubber has a density of from about 8.5 to about 10.5 ppg.
4. (Amended) The drilling fluid ~~additive~~ of claim 2 wherein said hydrocarbon fluid is selected from the group consisting of crude oil, diesel oil, mineral oil, gasoline, naptha, toluene, ethylenedichloride, synthetic oils and mixtures thereof.
5. (Amended) The drilling fluid ~~additive~~ of claim 1 further comprising cellulose fiber.
6. (Amended) The drilling fluid ~~additive~~ of claim 1 wherein the crumb rubber particles are capable of expanding to at least 140% of their original size upon exposure to hydrocarbon fluids.
7. (Amended) A drilling fluid ~~additive for reducing lost circulation of drilling fluids comprising:~~
 - (a) Crumb rubber particles capable of expanding upon exposure to heat, said particles having a diameter of from 400 to 4000 microns; and

(b) a hydrocarbon fluid wherein the crumb rubber particles are added to the drilling fluid in an amount of from 5 to 100 pounds per barrel of fluid.

8. (Amended) The drilling fluid ~~additive~~ of claim 7 wherein said crumb rubber particles have a density of from about 8.5 to about 10.5 ppg.

9. (Amended) The drilling fluid ~~additive~~ of claim 7 wherein said crumb rubber particles are capable of expanding ~~at least to~~ 140% of their original size upon exposure to a hydrocarbon fluid.

10. (Amended) A method of reducing lost circulation in a well comprising:

(a) preparing a pill of crumb rubber particles and hydrocarbon fluid wherein said crumb rubber comprises 5 to 100 pounds per barrel of drilling fluid;

(b) injecting said pill into said well; and

(c) forcing said pill into a lost circulation zone
wherein said rubber particles have a diameter of ~~from about greater than~~ 400 to about 4000 microns.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the crumb rubber has particles varying in size from greater than 400 to 2000 microns.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said hydrocarbon fluid is selected from the group consisting of crude oil, diesel oil, kerosene, mineral oil, gasoline, naptha, toluene, ethylenedichloride and mixtures thereof.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said hydrocarbon fluid comprises diesel oil.

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